assess the likely shortfall in rice production during the kharif season as the planting of crop is still going on in some areas.

(c) No difficulty is apprehended in meeting the demand of rice in the country, in event of some shortfall in rice production, as there is enough buffer stock of rice available. Moreover, the shortfall in production of rice during kharif season can be made good to some extent during rabi-summer season.

Stamping technology for improvement of coking coal

203. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for adopting stamping technology for improvement of coking coal as used by the steel industry has been pending with the SAIL;

(b) whether a detailed study was conducted by some foreign experts on the question of coking coal blending a few years ago;

(c) whether Indian coking coal was found to have basic ingredients for improving the standard required by steel industry for increasing the production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir. There are two proven technologies for improving coke quality. They are Stamp Charging technology and technology for Partial Briquetting of Coal Charge (PBCC.) In view of the lower capital cost of adoption of technology for PBCC, and in consideration of rapid fluctuations in indigenous coal qualities, SAIL's preference, in general, is to adopt technology for PBCC and to consider the adoption of Stamp Charging Technology in specific cases wherein the quality of input coals is assured on a long term basis and where introduction is found feasible in existing group of batteries.

(b) to (d) A German firm had tested samples of Indian blended coals in 1983-84 and the results showed that the coal had ingredients necessary for improving coke quality through partial briquetting of coal charge or stamp charging technologies.

Import of coking coal by SAIL

204. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SAIL has been importing increased quantity of coking coal despite the foreign exchange constraints;

(b) the expenditure incurred during the last three years in the import of coking coal by the SAIL; and

(c) what are the details of the steps which are being contemplated for reducing the import bill of coking coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Every year all the quantities of cooking coal produced indigenously are consumed by the steel sector and imports are resorted to meet only the balance requirement both in qualitative and quantitative terms. Increasing imports of coking coal by SAIL reflect the widening gap between SAIL's requirements and quantities of coal indigenously available. From the angle of foreign exchange conservation, import of coking coal is better than import of steel. Expenditure on the import of coking coal by SAIL over the last three years is as under:—

Year	Expenditure : Approx. (C & F value Rs. in crores)
1988-89	329.5
1989-90	426.8
1990-91	543.8

(c) Constant and vigorous efforts are made to contain the imports through augmentation of indigenous coal production, achievement of better coke rates resulting in lower consumption, higher supplies of Assam Coal etc. and improving the washery fields.

Metro Project in Calcutta

205. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lapses of Metro Railway authorities in Calcutta have been the reason for not completing the Metro Projects within stipulated time;

(b) whether Metro Railways has also failed to initiate action for resolving disputes between the various contractors engaged in the project; and

(c) if so, the steps being contemplated to be taken to expedite the completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Allotment of Government accommodation to the Government Servants

206. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of Government employees are in the waiting lists for more than ten years for allotment of Government accommodation;

(b) if so, the priority date upto which the accommodation has been provided in various categories;

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to provide accommodation to the Government employees who have come from outside Delhi particularly the Southern States on a preferential basis; and

(d) what is the number of pending applications categories-wise alongwith their priority date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) It is true that a large number of Government employees are in the waiting list for more than ten years for allotment of general pool accommodation.

(b) Dates of priority covered in different types and pools upto Type-V as on 27-8-91 are given in Annexure. The position of satisfaction for other places is in Annexure. [*Vide* Appendix 160; Annexure No. 5 and 6].

(c) Construction of additional General Pool accommodation is taken up to the extent of budget provision made for the Ministry. There is no proposal to give any preferential treatment to people coming from a particular region.

(d) Number of pending applications in different types & pools as on 27-8-91 in Delhi are given in Annexure. [*Vide* Appndix 160, Annexure No. 7]

.. **Loss due to Flood in Orissa** ..

207. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State of Orissa was effected by massive flood situation marooning more than 2000 villages in six sub-divisions;

(b) if so, the total losses to dwellings, crops, cattle etc. as a result thereof; and

(c) the financial assistance extended by the Central Government for relief measures?